act as hindrance in the functioning of our Government or private sector organisations.

Guidelines to passport offices

1688. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the passport offices to renew the passport including expired over within two days of their submission: and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guidelines have been recently issued to the Passport Offices to renew the passport including, expired ones in three working days subject to completion of certain formalities. However, due to certain practical difficulties including acute shortage of staff in Passport Officer and non-availability of previous passport details of the applicants in some cases, the modalities in this regard are presently being worked out.

Visit of Russian Premier

1689. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of agreements were signed during the recent visit of Shri Mikhail Fradkov the Russian Premier;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(c) whether any such agreement have been effected so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the visit, the following seven documents were signed:— (i) Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Federal Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS) of the Russian Federation for launching of Russian navigation satelites GLONASS-M, by a variant of the Indian Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV); (ii) Agreement between the Indian Space